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By: **Delegate McKee**  
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buses - Speed Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the speed limit for a certain vehicle when it is traveling  
4 on an interstate highway and is carrying any passenger.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
6 Article - Transportation  
7 Section 8-101(j)  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (1993 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article - Transportation  
12 Section 21-806  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 8-101.

19 (j) "Interstate highway" means a State highway that is part of the national  
20 interstate system in this State, as designated by the Administration and approved by  
21 the United States Secretary of Transportation under Title 23 of the United States  
22 Code.

23 21-806.

24 (a) (1) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
25 A person may not drive a Type I school vehicle (school bus) at a speed of more than 50  
26 miles an hour while it is carrying any passenger.

1           (2)     A PERSON MAY NOT DRIVE A TYPE I SCHOOL VEHICLE (SCHOOL BUS)  
2 AT A SPEED OF MORE THAN 5 MILES AN HOUR BELOW THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT  
3 WHILE IT IS CARRYING ANY PASSENGER ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY AS DEFINED  
4 IN § 8-101(J) OF THIS ARTICLE.

5       (b)     (1)     On request of any local authority, the State Highway Administration  
6 shall investigate and, on its own initiative, it may investigate any bridge or other  
7 elevated structure that is a part of a highway.

8           (2)     If it determines that the structure cannot safely withstand the weight  
9 of vehicles traveling at the maximum speed limit otherwise permitted by this subtitle,  
10 the State Highway Administration shall:

11                   (i)     Establish the maximum speed limit that the structure can  
12 safely withstand; and

13                   (ii)    At each approach to the structure, place or permit the  
14 placement of a suitable sign stating the maximum speed limit.

15           (3)     A maximum speed limit established under this section is effective  
16 when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

17     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2001.